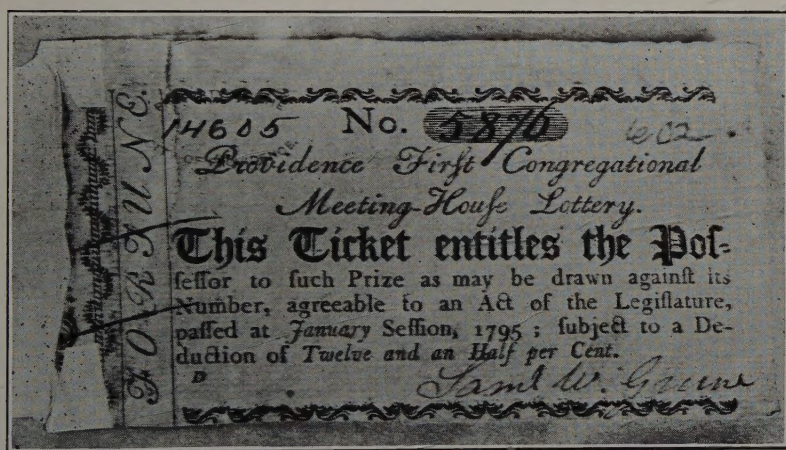


# RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

Vol. XXVIII

JULY, 1935

No. 3



A RHODE ISLAND LOTTERY TICKET OF 1795

Issued Quarterly

68 WATERMAN STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

## CONTENTS

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	PAGE
A Rhode Island Lottery Ticket of 1795 . . . . .	Cover
The Roger Williams Seals in the Egerton Manuscripts by James E. Ernst . . . . .	65
Proposed Iron Works at Providence by Howard M. Chapin . . . . .	67
Ships' Protests, 1645-1696 . . . . .	70
Plat of Stanton Purchase . . . . .	80-81
Notes . . . . .	82
The Old Hoyle Tavern (concluded) by Horace G. Belcher . . . . .	83

RHODE  
HISTORICAL



ISLAND  
SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS

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JULY, 1935

No. 3

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The Roger Williams Seals in the  
Egerton Manuscripts

By JAMES E. ERNST

Two manuscript letters written by Roger Williams to Lady Joan Barrington, of Hatfield Priory, Co. Essex, are now in the British Museum, in the Egerton MSS Coll. 2643, ff 3-6. Each of these two letters is sealed with a different seal. The seals used by Mr. Williams on these letters differ from the armorial seal used by him in 1637-1638 on letters to Governor Winthrop, of Massachusetts Bay.

On the letter of May 2, 1629, Egerton MSS 2643, ff 304, Roger Williams used an armorial seal, bearing a fleur-de-lis.

On the undated letter, which was undoubtedly written before that of May 2, 1629, Egerton MSS 2643, ff 5-6, Williams sealed with a seal bearing as its device a rose.



The armorial seal used by Williams in 1637-1638, on letters to Governor Winthrop, has not yet been satisfactorily deciphered. The letters are printed in the M. H. S. C. 4, VI, 231-3; 242-4; 248-9; 252-3; 254-6; 266-7. Mr. Howard M. Chapin has fully discussed the difficulties which



the seal presents in a recent article in the R. I. H. S. C., Vol. XXII, No. 3, pp. 89 ff. Rider's *Book Notes*, No. 11, p. 109, illustrates the seal and shows the lion rampant with tail curled outward. Mr. Chapin gives the seal as "a lion rampant within an orle of nine partly obliterated charges." If as Dr. Bowditch suggests the "charges" are "pheons," a solution of the ancestry of Roger Williams may be hoped for. I have recently examined the seals in the Massachusetts Historical Society Library and find that, contrary to Mr. Rider's statement, the tail actually turns toward the body.

## Proposed Iron Works at Providence in 1655

The earliest reference to an attempt to establish the metal trades in Providence appears in a letter of Roger Williams dated January 22, 1650-51 and addressed to the Inhabitants of the town of Providence, in which he wrote, "I have been solicited and have promised my helpe about Iron workes, when the matter is ripe, earnestly desirous everie way to further the good of the Towne of Providence."<sup>1</sup>

It is interesting to note that one of Roger Williams' dreams was for Providence to develop into a manufacturing and industrial center, a dream not destined to accomplishment until a century after his death.

The chief promoter of the scheme for establishing iron works in Providence was Mr. Joshua Foote, a citizen and iron-monger of London, who according to Savage<sup>2</sup> had extensive business dealings with New England during the years 1644 to 1652. Savage says that he came to New England in 1653 and settled at Roxbury, soon removing to Providence.

He was certainly living in England in 1644 and 1647 in each of which years he contributed £5 for the use of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England.<sup>3</sup> After his arrival in New England he became associated with the manufacture of iron here and appears in 1653 and 1654 as one of the three "commissioners and attorneys" for the Company of the Iron Works at Hammersmith<sup>4</sup> and Braintree in New England in the lengthy lawsuits in the Essex County courts.

In June 1651 a Mr. Foote appears as surety for a defend-

<sup>1</sup>Prov. Rec. XV, 40, 043.

<sup>2</sup>Also see Aspinwall's Notarial Records.

<sup>3</sup>N. E. H. & G. R. 36, p. 68 and 39, p. 179. E. C. Q. C. 1, p. 401.

<sup>4</sup>Hammersmith is that part of Lynn in which the iron works were located.

ant in the Essex County Quarterly Court<sup>5</sup> and as it seems probable this is Mr. Joshua Foote, it follows that he came to New England in or before 1651.

In February 1654-55 Williams wrote: "Mr. Foote has once and again moved for Iron Works at Providence. He told me that you had speech with him about his getting iron men to Pequot.<sup>6</sup> but he thought yourself would be willing to promote the work as well here as there, and therefore promised me to write to you. If I had power in my hand I would venture to such a public good, and however would gladly contribute all assistance, especially if your loving spirit and experience be pleased to give encouragement."<sup>7</sup>

In a postscript Williams adds: "Mr. Foot is said (at present) to resolve for the Dutch: upon occasion of my declaring against his man, Mr. Fowler's disorderly marriage in Mr. Foot's house, without any publication, and upon that occasion my refusing to promote the Iron Works as yet; he is displeased, and speaks of departure. I truly love and pity the man, yet surely from him have the Indians been furnished with store of liquors, from his house have the incivilities of our own town been much encouraged, and much evil report he hath incurred about this marriage. He saith he knew not of it 'till over night. But (although the pretended marriage was not) it may be resolved on before over night, yet I am sorry to hear such talk in the town of what he knew before."<sup>8</sup>

Joshua Foote describing himself as citizen and "ire-monger" of London now resident in Providence in New England on October 2, 1655 made his will which he signed with his mark in the presence of William Blackstone. He made Lieut. Joshua Hewes and Henry Fowler executors and trustees and left all his property to his wife and

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<sup>5</sup>N. E. H. & G. R. 1, p. 229.

<sup>6</sup>New London.

<sup>7</sup>N. C. VI, 284.

<sup>8</sup>N. C. VI, 286.



children.<sup>9</sup> Among his creditors were Joseph Jenckes, Senior, and Joseph Jenckes, Junior, both iron workers. The latter was destined to start iron works at Providence as Foote had planned to do.

Foote died in October, for on October 31, power of administration was granted to "Lieft Joshua Hewes" (N. E. H. & G. R. 5, p. 444). Apparently Hewes acted in Massachusetts Bay and Fowler in Rhode Island.

On May 7, 1656 William Barrows brought suit against Henry Fowler complaining that Mr. Foote and Mr. Fowler had received sixteen shillings more than was due to them upon their account. Henry Fowler asked for time to have the books, now at Boston, examined.<sup>10</sup> Barrows brought two suits against Fowler at this time, apparently one against Fowler personally and one against Fowler as "administrator" of Mr. Foote's estate.

At the same court Samuel Bennet brought suit against "Henry Fowler as administrator unto Mr. Foote" for twenty-four shillings damage for a calf that was killed by Mr. Foote's dogs.<sup>11</sup>

Such are the meagre facts in regard to Mr. Foote's project to establish iron works at Providence. As there are no actual references to iron works at Providence in 1655, it has been generally supposed that Foote's project did not materialize.

However, there are certain indications which point to the possibility that Foote did establish iron works at Providence between February 1655, the date of Williams' letter, and October 1655, the date of Foote's death.

In the first place Foote did not remove from Providence in February or March 1655 to some other place, but remained in Providence for seven or eight months until his death.

In 1682 William Hudson is described as "formerly an

---

<sup>9</sup>N. E. H. & G. R. 5, p. 444.

<sup>10</sup>Prov. Rec. I, 114 and XV, 71.

<sup>11</sup>P. R. I, 114.

Apprentice of Joshua Foote," and is given leave and liberty to buy land at Providence. At this same time Daniel Jenckes was also given liberty to abide in Providence whereby he may learn and perfect his trade of his brother Joseph Jenckes. Doubtless both Hudson and Daniel Jenckes worked in Joseph Jenckes' forge.

Why should Hudson, an iron worker, in 1682, over twenty-five years after Foote's death, be described before the Providence Town Council as "formerly an apprentice of Ioshua Foote," unless Foote had actually established and operated for a while his proposed iron works at Providence.

That Foote was engaged in some sort of business while in Providence is shown by the suits brought in May 1656 by Barrows. That the suits related to the operations of Foote and Fowler and not to the operations of the Company of the Iron Works in New England is shown by the fact that the suits were against Foote and Fowler and not against the commissioners and attorneys for the Iron Works Company.

## Ships' Protests

For a sea-captain to appear before a notary public, and swear out a formal protest against the sea and the wind for damages that his ship has had the misfortune to suffer, sounds like a ridiculous incident in a musical comedy, yet such is actually the proper legal procedure sanctioned by centuries of legal precedent and maritime custom. Sawyer,<sup>1</sup> writing in 1840, tells us that "it is usual for shipmasters immediately after arriving in port from a foreign voyage, to enter a general protest, to be extended upon afterwards. Where practical, it should be done before a notary public. This he does, whether he is aware of having sustained any damage from perils of the sea or not. If, afterwards, either at that port, or at any other, he finds that the ship or cargo

<sup>1</sup>Frederick W. Sawyer in *The Merchants' and Shipmasters' Guide*, Boston, 1840.



did sustain damage from such perils, while on the passage, he may then extend upon his general protest."

The earliest ship's protest on record in Rhode Island was noted in 1645 at a time when there was no Vice Admiralty court in the colony. John Dolling of "Uncaway," merchant, and part owner of the ship *Virgin*, then lying at anchor in Newport harbor, drew up a protest, or "protestation" as he called it, on January 4, 1645, in which he noted his protest against the sailing of the *Virgin* in such an "unseasonable time." He noted this protest before Mr. Jeremy Clark, one of the magistrates, who had the sergeant serve the document on Thomas Newton, master of the *Virgin*. The copy of the protest, with the details connected with its delivery, was entered on the minutes of the Quarter Court held at Newport on January 6, 1645. This protest, it will be noted, preceded the damage that might be expected to occur, and so differs in some respects from the customary ship's protest.

A temporary Vice Admiralty Court existed during the Dutch War of 1653 and 1654, after which the colony was without such a court for about forty years. The next protest, the earliest ship's protest in typical form recorded in Rhode Island, was noted during this period. John Herbert, commander of the sloop *Swan*, appeared before John Coggeshall, and with two witnesses, Israel Spencer and John Harcer, both mariners on the *Swan*, noted his protest "against the sea, winde and bad wether for all Losses."

Curiously enough this protest was recorded in the first volume of Land Evidences, a place where one would scarcely look for maritime records. The explanation seems to be that the colony owned so few record books that the clerk entered the protest there for want of any better place to record it. Two more protests were noted within the next two months, all three being noted before John Coggeshall, General Recorder of the Colony, and an Assistant.<sup>2</sup>

No more protests were recorded for over a decade, and then on November 30, 1689 John Christopher, master of

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<sup>2</sup>The members of the upper house were termed "Assistants."

the good barque *Reserve* of New London, appeared before John Coggeshall, who was at this time Deputy Governor, and noted a protest.

These few scattered protests give us an idea of the hardships of the colonial mariners and of the weakness of their vessels. They do not, however, give us any idea of the number of vessels employed in our early colonial commerce, nor any idea as to the frequency of disasters.

It was not customary in early colonial days to enter the "general protests," mentioned as customary in 1840, but only to enter protests when actual damage had been done. Even in that case, protests were not always noted, a condition that might be expected from the irregularity in maritime law and usage that prevailed in those days.

Ships' protests became more numerous during the reign of King William and of Queen Anne, or at least more records of them have come down to our time. Abstracts of those recorded in the second volume of *Rhode Island Land Evidences* are printed herewith together with the four already mentioned.

Those of the *Two Brothers* (1695), the *Olive Branch* (1695), and the *Diamond* (1696), were sworn before Samuel Cranston as Assistant; that of the *Experiment* (1695) before Nicholas Carr, Head Warden of Jamestown; those of the *William* (1696), and the *Providence* (1697) before Walter Clarke, the Governor, and the others from 1698 to 1704 before Samuel Cranston, the Governor.

The form of the protest is changed slightly in 1701, thereafter the shipmaster appearing first before the notary public and then acknowledging the protest before the Governor.

\* \* \* \*

Mr John dolling of vncaway<sup>3</sup> merchant having part of, & goods in a shipp lately brought to Anchor in Nuport Harbor & being unwilling that she should dept in an unseonable time drew up a protestacon And by the Authoritie of Mr Jeremy Clark being on of the magistrates sent the serjant

<sup>3</sup>Fairfield, Conn.

therwth to the master of the sd shipp, who gave affedavitt this prsent Court of the ddrie therof into the hands of Thomas Newton Master of the sd shipp or vessell, wch protest the said John dolling peticoned this Court to be entered into the Records thereof the better to give Evidence therof to such whom afterwards it might further Concern

I John Dolling of uncaway Merchant doe by these presents as Atorney for John Richbell Merchant, and for myself, Protest against the setting sayle of the shipp Virgin now at Anchor in the Road of Nuport and doe hereby deliver that itt is by me this present day Protested wittness my hand this 4 of Janu: Ano: 1645

pr mee John dolling

Before me Jeremy Clarke the day & yeare above written. Supers To Thomas Newton Master of the said shipp. (R. I. C. R., p. 33.)

Newport on Rhod-Island February 26th 1676.

... be it knowne ... That ... did Personally appeare before me John Coggeshall ... John Herbert Commander of the Sloope Swan; and did Alleage ... by the Testimonies of these Wittnesses ... Israell Spencer and John Harcer, mariners aboard the - sloope ... on the 13th ... being on A voyage ... bound for New-York, they were by Tempestuous wind and seas, and ... Darkness of the Wether Concurring, forced A shore upon the Sandy point of Monnainoy ... on behalfe of himselfe and Company, and alsoe for the owners of the - Sloope, ... doth - Publickly ... Protest against the sea, winde, and bad wether, for all Losses. ... (R. I. L. E. I, 128.)

Newport ... March 28th 1677.

... on the ... Date hereof did ... appear before mee ... John Coggeshall ... John Goose Comander of the Ketch Society, with his Company ... and doth ... enter their Protest against the said Ketch<sup>4</sup> for her Insufficiency to

<sup>4</sup>"Ketch" is the name applied to a two masted vessel, the mainmast being stepped about amidships, and a shorter mast being stepped near the stern, but there is reason to believe that in the seventeenth century the term "ketch" was applied to small vessels carrying lateen sails.



indure the sea . . . in ordinary wether her seames would open . . . and when they carryed sayle, . . . she would - take in soe much water to Lee-ward, . . . that we were forced to keepe the pumps goeing . . .

John Goose  
signed

Thomas X Banfield  
Edward X. Barton  
his marke

John Cheritrie  
Passongers

Ralfe Blackhall  
Frances Ellis

(I, 136)

Newport . . . Aprill 11th 1677.

. . . on the . . . Date hereof, did . . . Samuell Andrews, Comander of the Ketch Providence, and did . . . Prove by . . . these Wittnesses . . . John Weeden, John Coe, Thomas Rapere, Marriners aboard the sayd Ketch, that . . . Samuell Andrews being on a Voyage with the sayd Ketch, . . . bound for New-York, they were by Tempestuous wind and Seas, . . . and very firce Raigne Concurring, forced A shore Upon A sandy Beach, on Rhod-Island . . . being open to the Otion,<sup>5</sup> and very great Brakers, . . . on behalfe of himselfe and Company . . . doth . . . Protest . . .

John Coggeshall, Asst  
(I, 137)

. . . We John Christophers Master, Jeffery Christophers Mate &c. belonging to the good barque<sup>6</sup> Reserve of New London, . . . bound from Barbados to Newport . . . being at Sea, On tuesday the Twentie Ninth Day of October Last past, In the Latitude of Thirtie Nine Degrees and thirtie five Minits by dead reckoning . . . Mett with a most violent and Tempestuous storm, . . . that wee were forced to Lye by or a Hull, wind being at South East. On Wednesday . . . the thirtith day we were forced to Scudd with bare poles in a most Violent and great Sea breaking over us and . . . bare-

<sup>5</sup>Ocean.

<sup>6</sup>The term "barque" in the seventeenth century referred to the size of the vessel, rather than to the rig, and usually was applied to a small vessel of from 30 to 150 tons, often rigged as a sloop.

ing away . . . all hogsheads and Casque from off our deck . . .  
 Wee . . . do . . . Protest and exclaim against the Seas accord-  
 ing to Custome . . . thirtieth day of November One thousand  
 Six Hundred Eighty and nine . . .

. . . John Christophers	John Christophers
Geffery Christophers &	Jeffrey Christophers
Benjamin Waters . . . the	the marke and seall of
Last day of Novemb 1689 &	X
swore . . . to the truth . . .	Benjamin Waters
John Coggeshall Depty Govr:	(I, 1395)

John Many of the City of New Yorke in his majtty Pro-  
 vince of New Yorke in America marriner Sendeth Greeting  
 . . . I the Sd John Many Mas of the Sloop two Brothers  
 belonging to Sd New York having According to Order  
 navigated Said Sloop from Said New York to Surranam<sup>7</sup>  
 And thare took in Lading for the Sd City of New Yorke  
 Wee Sailed in Sd Sloop from Perramaryber<sup>8</sup> in Sd Surra-  
 nam the Second of November 1695 & was bound directly  
 for Sd New York In the Lattitude of twenty Seven degrees  
 wee Meet with A vyolent Storme wind at west & west south  
 west Shifting Against to A Every point of the Compos  
 Rayzed A greatt sea which Roked us fore And Aft Shifting  
 our goods in the hold In so much that wee had Like to have  
 bene foundred And all most without hope of Saving Sd  
 vessell And our Lives And doe feare that damage is done  
 to the goods in the hold the which Said storme held us  
 Neare three weeks In fifty two days from Sd port in  
 Surranam wee Made the Land of Marthers Vinard being  
 durty weather wee came to Anchor the next Morning heav-  
 ing up or Anchor it breake of in the Shank Near the Cross  
 wee Stood for the westward the wind blowing very hard &  
 durty weather wee Came to Anchor under nomans Land in  
 the Night the wind Luning wee Indeverted to way in So  
 doeing of which our Cable broke then wee Stood Away for

<sup>7</sup>Surinam or Dutch Guiana in South America.

<sup>8</sup>Paramaribo.

Rhoad Island where wee Arrived the twenty forth Day of this Instant without Any Anchor So that what Damage is Done to the sd vessell And goods was through the voyalance of the wind & sea tharefore I Doe protest Against the Same as being the ocation thareof Christopher phogland Mate of Sd vessell Stephen vallue Mark forentine Peter Virgroe foremastmen Doe Mannifest And declare to the truth of All the Above Written And Doe heare by protest with Said master . . . In testamony of which with the Sd Master & Mate have heare unto Subscribed our Names

John Manny Mr  
 Christopher phogland mate  
 Stephen vallau  
 Marke fullintine  
 his X marke

The Above Sd John Many Mr Christopher phogland mate Stephen vallue Marke florintine Peter virgoe foremastmen belonging to the Sd Sloope two brothers on their Sollom Engagment Declared the truth of what Above Written Dated Newport on Rhoad Island Desembr: 25th 1695

Samll Cranston Ast (II, 29)

. . . Wee Benjamin Brittan of Salam in the province of the Massathusets Bay . . . of New England Marriner & Master of the Barque Ollive Branch belonging to Sd Salam And Jeames Hardy of Sd Salam Marriner And Mate of Sd vessell And John Tapley Boatswain of Sd vessell In behalfe of our Selves And the Rest of the Company doth . . . declare that being at the Island of barbados And bound with Said vessell for Sd Salam Saylled from thence the Seventh day of november Last past And Stod for or designed port of Salem Afore Sd on the Second Day of this Instant being then in the Lattitude of 34 degrees 50 minnits Came up A violent Storme of winde at west South west Shifting &c which Raised A greatt Sea & the next morning betwene six And Seven A clock on the Shift of the wind to North west the Sea took our vessell on the Larbord Side filled our Mast And Shifted the goods in the hold wee feare to the greatt



Damage of the Same tharefore wee as Afore Sd Doe heareby mannifest or protest Against the Sea as being the Ocation thareof Wittness our hands in newport . . . Afore Sd whare wee Arived the 27th of Desembr 1695 . . .

Benja Bickman<sup>9</sup>

Jeames Hardy

John Tapley (II, 30)

. . . be it know . . . that on the sixteen day of desembr . . . 1695 . . . Richard Willy And Danll Hobart Comander & Master of the Ship Experiment of Barbados Burden one hundred And Six tunns or thare Abouts plantation Built Came before mee Nicholas Carr hed wardding of the town of Jeames town on the Island Connott in the Govrment of Rhoad Island . . . And they Declared unto mee that on the fifteenth day of this Instant they Sett Sayle from Rhoad Island laden with horses<sup>10</sup> provitions And Lumber bound for Barbados And on the Same day About two or three of the Clock After none being of of the Beaver Taile Something to the Northward which is A point of dangres Rocks Lying Southward from Sd Island, And being pritty nigh In with Sd Shore with the wind at north north west A Small Gayle the Sd wind dyed Away at once And Emediately breaced up at South East filled all their Sailes A back whare upon they Emediately Braced their Sailes to the wind And kept their boat A head for feare of mistaying, Stays with the helpe of which their Said Ship Stayed & their they filled their Sailes with their Starboard Tack on bord Still keeping their boat Ahead Indevouring to Stand Of Shore but the wind being So Small & the Swell of the Sea heaving Into the Shore that notwithstanding their boat being Ahead their Sd Ship Could not gitt Steredgeway but drove into the Shore then they Lett Run An Anchor & halled up their Sailes but the water being Deepe their Anchor Came home Although they veried out Cable with All dexterity & Expedition possible but the Anchor Still Dragging home their Sd

<sup>9</sup>Bickman in acknowledgment.

<sup>10</sup>Cf. note 1, page 7 of Sanford Papers, published by R. I. Hist. Society.

Ship Cast in betwene two Rocks it being About halfe ebb  
 whare their Sd Ship Emediately grounded & About five  
 O clock After None their Sd Ship Bildged on the Sd Rock  
 And filled their Sd Ship with water which caused hir to fall  
 over on hir Starbord bildge which drowned All their  
 horses Exsept Six which Swimed on Shore Thare fore the  
 Sd Richard Willy & Danll Hobart Above Sd Requested  
 mee the fore Sd head warding of the town of Jeamestown  
 Afore Said to make this publique Instrument of protest . . .  
 Whare upon I the Said head warding . . . doe protest Against  
 the Shifting of the wind & Swelling of the Sea for All Costs  
 Losses And damages . . . Sustained by Marchts And Owners  
 of the Sd Ship & goods on bord of Said Ship as the Onely &  
 Sole Cause And Ocation thare of And not Otherwise In  
 testamony whare of I have heare unto Sett my hand &  
 affixed my Seall . . .

Swarn before mee

Nicholas Carr Warden X

Johnathan Pemberton Mate

Jacob Conklyn botsswaine

Caleb Wheller Carpertor

Thomas Wigger

Thomas Rimington

Samll Stevens

Nathanll Townsend

Ambros Langley

frances Kitting

Samuell Broston

Robart Ashford (II, 33)

. . . Wee under Written belonging to the Sloope Called the  
 dimond whare of Nicholas Ingolsbey is Commander now  
 Riding In the harbor of Newport in Rhoad Island from the  
 Island of Barbados which Sd Sloope was Laded in the Sd  
 Island of barbados . . . about the Midedd of Apriell Last  
 past & putt in A porster Ready to Saile for the Owner  
 Intrest and fraiters Advantage but by the Restraint of  
 princes & Authority of kingly power the Sd Sloope was  
 Imbarqued In the Road of the Sd Island of barbados foure  
 Munths or more with hir lading on bord in which time wee  
 Judge that thare may be Considerable Damage to the

frayters in their good And for our Security from Damage that belong to the Sd Sloope And Cargo Doe According to Law in Such Cases provided make . . . this our Publick protest Against the Restraint of Authority in the Sd Islands by kingly power of Imbargue into the Publicq Records of the Collony of Rhoad Island . . . for All Damages that wee have Sustained . . . by Reason as Afore Sd Attested under our hands before Authority this 15th day of August 1696 . . .

Nich Ingoldby Master

Robert Lad Mate

John Clarke

Henry X Halbord his marke (II, 45)

These are to Certifie . . . that wee underwritten Aron Beale Commander of the Ship the William of Boston in New England Burthen 100 tunns or thare Abouts Richard Jeames Mate And Zachariah Hill Boatswains of Sd Ship doe heareby Declare that being on our present voyage from the Island of Jemeco<sup>11</sup> in the Sd Ship William bound to the port of boston Afore Sd & being in the Lattitude of 18 degrees or thare Abouts wee Sprung A leake which Continued tollerable untill Arriving in the Latitude of 38 or 39 Degrees our Sd Leake so Increased by Reason of Stress of weather that at Length it proved in Supportable & perrilous & therefore for preservation of Lives Ship and goods wee ware constrained to put into this port of Newport on the Eight Instant to the truth whare of wee have heare unto Sett or hands this ninth day of August 1696

Aron Beale

Richard Jeames

Zachariah Hill

Sollomly Deposed before the Honerd Govr of Rhoad Island<sup>12</sup> Walter Clarke (II, 55)

<sup>11</sup>Jamaica.

<sup>12</sup>Danll Vernon and John Mumford signed as witnesses. The witnesses were not on the voyage, but were residents of Newport.





A Draught of a Block of  
 the Stanton & Joseph Gerson Contain  
 and the Individed Meadows as was  
 Concerned - p. 2 - - - - -  
 Drawn by A. S.  
 A True Copy  
 By M. S.

PLAT  
 (R)  
 A SCALE BEARING THE NAME [?] S...  
 ON THE PLAT JUST



## Notes

An illustrated article on Old Newport Houses by William K. Covell appeared in *Old Time New England* for April 1935.

The *Bulletin of the Rhode Island School of Design* for April 1935 contains an illustrated article on Samuel Vernon, Newport silversmith, by Dorothy N. Casey.

The Harris Smith Records, a series of almanacs annotated with vital records, has recently been presented to the Society by Albert B. Coulters. These records, largely relating to Washington and Kent Counties, have been arranged alphabetically and typewritten for the convenience of genealogists.

The following persons have been elected to membership in the Society:

Miss Susan S. Brayton

Mr. Tracy W. McGregor



## The Old Hoyle Tavern

By HORACE G. BELCHER

*(Continued from April issue)*

It was a gala day for the opening of the old tavern under its new owner. William Greene of Warwick was then Governor; Jabez Bowen of Providence was Lieutenant Governor; Henry Ward of Newport, Secretary of State; William Channing of Newport, Attorney General; Joseph Clarke of Newport was General Treasurer. The Census of 1782 had shown a population of 4,306 persons for Providence, including 1913 white males, 943 of them under the age of 16; 2102 white females, 903 under 16 years; 6 Indians, 22 mulattoes, 252 blacks.

Col. Joseph Hoyle is described in the deed as "yoeman" the common term for one not a man of property and conclusive proof that he was not then an innkeeper. He came to the tavern with the tradition of two generations of innkeepers behind him—his grandfather, Dr. John Hoyle and his father, James who in Dr. Hoyle's will had been directed to "assist his mother in her business, her paying him for it," after the death of Dr. Hoyle. He must have been a man of unusual parts, to have left such an indelible impress of his personality and popularity on the tavern in the 13 years he remained its landlord, that succeeding landlords retained his name on its sign to the end, nearly a century later. They might and many of them did, put their own name on the sign, but always it was subordinated to the old name, the Hoyle Tavern or later, the Hoyle Hotel.

Col. Joseph Hoyle, son of James and grandson of John, was born in Providence in 1741. He married Sarah Field of Providence, October 26, 1774, the minister being Rev. Joseph Snow of the Beneficent Congregational Church, the

old "Round Top." He had been landlord of the Hoyle Tavern more than a year when on July 8, 1784, he married Patience Rogers, then the widow Manchester, the ceremony being performed in North Providence by Hope Angell, justice of the peace.

This marriage was recorded 15 years later in 1799 after Col. Hoyle had given up the tavern. The marriage record as made by George Tillinghast, Town Clerk, included a list of the children of that marriage, with dates of birth of each one. The time and manner of the record makes it appear a measure to establish legal rights of the wife and children in his estate. Hoyle retired at 56 and was 59 when he died.

Col. Hoyle made the Hoyle Tavern the leading one on the west side of the town where taverns were numerous, especially on the road which now is Westminster Street, and one of the best known and most popular houses in the colony. He retired in February, 1796, after 13 years as its host, and was succeeded by Jeremiah Fenner.

Hoyle died insolvent, four years later, in 1800. His widow sold her rights and dower in the property May 22, 1801, to Mary Arnold, daughter of Welcome Arnold, who later married Tristram Burgess, a well known lawyer of Providence and Representative in Congress from 1825 to 1835. The property remained in the Burgess family until the Citizens Savings Bank bought it for \$75,000, June 30, 1919.

Jeremiah Fenner rented the inn from Joseph Hoyle, in February, 1796 and left in the latter part of 1797. There is no record of any other innholder here for the next six years until Col. Cyrus Spaulding took it over in April, 1803 from the new owners. He had previously kept a tavern at the head of Long Wharf, at the foot of the present Dorrance Street.

Col. Spaulding stayed but a year at the Hoyle, removing in 1804 to the house of Joseph Sabin at the sign of the

Golden Ball, two doors West of the Great Bridge. The Golden Ball seems to have been a popular name for Providence taverns, for there have been three here, as well as others just outside the town.

From 1804 to 1807 the Hoyle was run by Joseph Angell. He left in 1807 and the tavern was again advertised for rent. It stood empty five years this time, for it was not until 1812 during our second war with Great Britain, that Joseph Witter became its landlord. He stayed six years, leaving in 1818 to open a house over the corner of Weybosset and High Streets.

The Hoyle Tavern was advertised a number of times between 1816 and 1820, even during Witter's tenancy, until Caleb Allen became its landlord in 1820. He stayed a year and was followed in 1821 by Preston H. Hodges, a well known innkeeper who kept it until 1827, when he left to carry on the Franklin House on Market Square, 1827 to 1832, with his son. Seth Baker succeeded him at the Hoyle in 1828 and kept it for three years, removing April 15, 1831, to a tavern on the opposite side of High Street.

After that, landlords changed often. John Burton kept there from 1831 to 1834; William Capron 1834 and perhaps 1835; Owen Burlingame, who came from Scituate, 1835 to 1837. Burlingame's license was dated April 6, 1835.

Somewhere about this time a third story was added to the tavern, which originally was of two stories. Much later in the century an ell was built on, with a barroom on the lower floor. This addition, made about the Centennial year, 1876, increased its capacity to 45 rooms, 12 of them being in the ell. This new ell was in odd contrast to the old house, for the lines of the original structure were wavy and anything but straight, while the newer part was angular and square with modern windows and doors.

From the front the structure appeared but two stories high to the casual glance, for a long porch with six white pillars extended along the front of the second story,



reached from the open square in front by two broad flights of steps at each end and in the centre. A short distance in front of this was a long hitching rail for horses. In later years a large horse watering trough was located in front. A circular stone trough still stands there.

"The main stairway is quite as queer in its formation as the building itself," says an old description of the Hoyle as it was in 1888.<sup>29</sup> "The balustrade, or banisters as it was then, is of the slight, ugly style, the stairs narrow and of low tread and great care has to be exercised in going up alone, for fear of hitting one's head on some of the supposed artistic projections or ornaments.

"As one looked at it, the question naturally comes up as to how many thousands have climbed those stairs, how many joyous supper parties have passed up and down, how many honest farmers have rested there after a day of busy barter and trade in the city and how many who, in the barroom below have drank not wisely but too well, have been aided up the steep way by the attendants of the house.

"Looking from the front of the stairway toward the rear of the building, the main hall or corridor is an odd-looking passage with innumerable jogs and projections, each room that opens on it having a corner sticking out, handy to fall against in the night and equally hazardous for anyone to pilot by in the daytime, unless in full control of his powers.

"Apparently this floor was not planned at all, but the rooms were simply thrown at the building and stuck.

"Ascending the main stairway, a narrow corridor runs back to the annex and looking down it, the utter impossibility of taking a big trunk through it at once apparent, while even a bridal couple, closely as they walk together, would have to proceed in single file.

"Leading from this to the floor above, is a curiously built winding stairway that would make an excellent study for an artist. It is even worse to climb than the lower stairway, being only half as wide and twice as steep.

<sup>29</sup> Providence *Sunday Journal*, January 29, 1888.

"The windows in the room and halls are antique in the extreme, the panes of glass being small and more or less dirty, while they are set in heavy wood and look from the outside almost like windows in a prison. Many of them are the ones originally put in, but some are of modern size and style and look much out of place among their ancient fellows."

The procession of innkeepers continued, with frequent changes. The old tavern had much competition and its days of long tenancy ended with the death of Martha Brown, in 1778. John A. Foster took it over in 1838 and left it three years later, in 1841, to open a grocery store.

About this time the old Hoyle began to be known as the Hoyle Hotel instead of as the Hoyle Tavern. Christopher Johnson, who had managed the Angell House, the Franklin House and later the Washington Hotel, and perhaps the old Baker Tavern on High Street, was its landlord from 1841 to 1843.

It was on the last day of December, 1843, that Amasa Sprague, of the great cotton manufacturing family whose failure three decades later was a world event in that industry, was murdered—a crime which brought about the abolishment of capital punishment in Rhode Island.

"One of the legends of the Hoyle," says the old account previously quoted,<sup>30</sup> "is that Nick Gordon, instigator of the murder of Amasa Sprague the elder, came to the tavern on the night of the murder and bought drinks for the crowd several times, and kept talking about what time it was and how long he had been there, thus laying a foundation for an alibi in case he was suspected of the murder."

Charles Richards had the place from 1844 to 1847, followed by Lynson Barney, 1847 to 1848. Barney came to the Hoyle from the High Street Hotel, which he kept from 1844 to 1846. Later he removed to Newport and became proprietor of the United States Hotel. Samuel B.

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<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

Parker followed, 1848 to 1852; John Colwell, 1853 to 1855 or '56; and then came Sidney S. Paul, one of the most colorful personalities ever connected with a Rhode Island hotel.

Sidney Paul prided himself on good ale and always had half a dozen barrels on tap at the Hoyle. He used to say he could feed 100 persons, day or night, on good roast beef and other things, and on occasion he maintained this reputation. He also kept the Roger Williams Hotel, which stood next to the Providence Washington building where North Main Street runs into Market Square, and subsequently kept the Earle House at the corner of North Main and Steeple Streets.

After leaving the Hoyle in 1859, he opened a road house on the Apponaug road just East of the present Warwick Avenue in what now is Lakewood, which for many years after he passed on, was still called the Sidney Paul place.

John Boyden, who bought him out at the Hoyle in 1859, later opened the first shore resort on the East side of the Providence River, about where the Wilkesbarre coal pier was later located. His name was given to Boyden Heights, a well known clam dinner resort in East Providence near Riverside. Boyden died in 1864 and his widow, Jane Boyden, carried on at the Hoyle until 1867—the second woman to take charge of the old hostelry.

The line of landlords continued with Jenckes Harris, 1868-1869; he was followed by Orren Harris (Agent), 1870. Harris was noted for his hot whiskey punches. Then came Amos Wells, 1871 to 1874; Benjamin S. Wilbur, 1875-1876; Orrin Harris again, 1877-1878; Thomas Ladd, 1879-1882; Thomas Hartshorn, 1883. The line of landlords ended with William W. Cameron, 1884-1887. Cameron, whose name is on the sign shown in the last photograph of the tavern doing business, removed from the city in 1887. The Providence Directory does not list any proprietor after 1886, the year Providence celebrated the 250th anniversary of the founding of the city.



The old house had 29 landlords between 1739-40 and 1886. Of these 29 innholders, two were women, their tenancy being 111 years apart. One of these women, Martha Brown, widow of the founder of the tavern, had the longest tenancy of any—a full quarter-century.

The old house had successively been a stage coach and farmer's inn; a popular house to which the young bloods of the town resorted; a farmer's hotel; and a neighborhood barroom. Always it retained its popularity with horsemen and back country farmers. It fell in repute in its later days and it ended as a lodging house for families, with rooms let to lodgers who took their meals elsewhere.

Some of the best known hotel keepers of the town and city had it for longer or shorter periods, with varying fortunes. One of its proprietors hanged himself in the little entry leading from his private sitting room to his bedroom. Always it remained the Hoyle—a landmark, the best known place on the East side of Providence.

For many years a pair of large scales stood in front of the Hoyle, where hay and other bulky commodities were weighed. These scales were provided with big weights which Ben Olney, the noted weight master, threw around as if they were specially made for him. He would announce the weight with as much care as if weighing diamonds.

"But to see Ben in his glory, was to see him when a big load of wood was to be measured," says an old account.<sup>81</sup> "Then, indeed, he owned the place. All measuring was done with a yard stick and the care that Ben took with a fraction of an inch, was a wonder to the small boys and a delight to his friends.

"For many years the farmers used to tie up in front and around the Hoyle and barter their produce for what they needed and this made the junction a most lively place. Inside the hotel, faro bank was often dealt and it was an easy matter to start a poker game at any time.

"One day a farmer drove up with a load of cherries and

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<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*

left them guarded by a savage looking dog. Alf Barton, one of the characters of old Christian Hill, was there and remonstrated with the farmer for leaving them with only the dog to guard them—but the farmer allowed the dog was enough and said anyone who could drive him away could have the cherries.

“That was enough for Alf and before the farmer had gone any distance, by the aid of a squirt gun and some hot water, he had routed the dog and divided the cherries among those near by.”

For many years a large tree stood on the High Street side of the hotel. In this one of the proprietors built a platform 20 feet above ground, railed off for security and on the platform placed tables and chairs. In summer this made a cool and airy place for service from the bar.

“From its start until within a few years, it was a hostelry, open 24 hours daily. Now it is used as a lodging house for families and rooms are let to boarders who take their meals elsewhere,” says an old newspaper description of the place in its last days.<sup>32</sup>

“The famous old kitchen is deserted and silent, no juicy steaks are cooked there, no steaming coffee emerges from its portals and the famous dishes of ham and eggs and wonderful boiled dinners that used to be served there, are no more known.

“With the increase of population and the growth of building on the West Side, the functions ceased and gradually but surely it settled into a relic of the past and ‘The Hoyle’ sank to the level of an ordinary building, only known by the fact that it stood at the junction of High and Cranston Streets.

“Probably no tavern of olden times or hotel of later years has so many stories connected with it. The Hoyle was once the leading road house of the town. East Side bloods used to drive out to it, for there were few buildings

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<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*



THE HOYLE TAVERN ABOUT 1887

Part of the tavern's stable can be seen at the left.

*From photograph owned by Horace G. Belcher*

on the hill and it was considered quite a distance from the centre of the city. There was no bridge across the now Providence River and to reach the Hoyle required quite a drive out toward Pawtucket."

This newspaper account lists some of the proprietors of the old Hoyle, including several whose names do not appear in the list of annual license holders. Among them was Walt Proctor, of whom the reporter said: "Walt Proctor is best known to this generation, for he and his heirs have owned it for 16 or 18 years and still hold it. His noted motto of 'Live and Let Live' is known everywhere. He died at the Hoyle."

There is no record of any license issued for the Hoyle in the name of Walter Russell Proctor, although he died there September 29, 1883, his home being then at 42 Willow Street. He certainly had the leasehold of the place at the time of his death, for an account in the *Providence Journal* October 1, 1883—a few days after his death—of a row at the Hoyle, said the property was in control of Walter Proctor. He probably held license through a dummy or his bartender, as was often done where a license could not be obtained direct.

The old tavern building, with its additions, its barn and other buildings erected on the original land, stood until 1890 when it was sold at auction June 18. The Hoyle Tavern itself brought \$16, a condition of sale being its removal within 30 days. The addition to the older structure sold for \$98 and seven other buildings including barns, on the property brought the total up to \$1156. The big stable was on the Cranston Street side, in the rear of the main building, which faced the point of the junction.

The old tavern was replaced by a store and office building of two stories on the Westminster and Cranston Street sides, with a front section facing the square, of three stories. This structure was vacated March 1, 1920 following purchase of the property by the Citizens Savings Bank and was removed to make way for the present home



of the bank, opened July 1, 1921, just six months more than half a century after the bank was established as a Christian Hill institution.

The estate had remained in possession of the Burgess family and descendants from 1801 until 1893 when it was conveyed to the Burges Land Company, Casimir DeR. Moore, President; Alfred H. Cumbers, Treasurer by Casimir DeR. Moore and Harriet F. Moore, his wife, both of New York City; Charles E. Souther and Mary Burges Souther, his wife, both of Orange, New Jersey, the date being February 18. It was described as numbers 5-43 Cranston and 878-900 Westminster Street.

The Citizens Savings Bank bought from the Burges Land Company, June 30, 1919, paying \$75,000 for the property which when sold at auction June 5, 1889 by George H. Burnham, Commissioner in the case of Casimir DeR. Moore of New York vs. Andrew S. Thorp for partition of estate, had been passed for a bid of \$41,100 for "all that certain lot of land with the buildings thereon and appurtenances thereto, situated at the junction of High and Cranston Streets . . . known as the Hoyle Tavern estate . . . about 28,137 square feet of land."

#### JOSEPH HOYLE'S MARRIAGES

Joseph Hoyle was 33 when he married Sarah Field, daughter of Joseph Field, October 26, 1774, in Providence. The marriage was performed by Rev. Joseph Snow, who recorded it in the ledger account he kept of the many marriages he performed as minister of the Beneficent Congregational Church.

The record, as transcribed in Book 5, page 482, of the Record of Marriage and Births, office of the City Registrar, Providence, reads: "Joseph Hoyle of Providence, son of James, Sarah Field of Providence, daughter of Joseph, October 26, 1774."

There is no record of the death of Sarah Hoyle, but on page 128, Book 2, of Record of Marriages and Births in the City Registrar's office, Providence, is a photostatic copy of the page in the original record book, with the entry of his second marriage.

The date was July 8, 1784, but the record was not made until March 30, 1799, when it was entered with a list of the children born to the couple from that marriage. The bride was Patience Rogers, then the widow Manchester. The record reads:

"I hereby certify that Mr. Joseph Hoyle, son of Mr. James Hoyle, deceased, and Miss Patience Manchester, widow of——(line drawn here in original record) Manchester, deceased, were lawfully joined together in Marriage in North Providence the eighth day of July, anno Domine 1784. By me, the subscriber, Hope Angell, Justice of Peace. Witness George Tillinghast, Town Clerk. March 30, 1799.

"Their children, born in Providence, are as follows, to wit:

Elizabeth Stuart Hoyle, Born August 15, 1785

Joseph Hoyle, Jr., Born December 7, 1786

James Rogers Hoyle, Born February 27, 1788

Henry Ward Hoyle, Born February 5, 1790

Susannah Hoyle, Born November 20, 1791

John Singer Dexter Hoyle, Born April 3, 1798"

While the record of the marriage gives the name of the bride as Patience Manchester, widow of——Manchester, deceased, the index to this volume in the same handwriting as the entries in the volume, reads:

"Hoyle, Joseph and Patience Rogers, their Marriage and children's Births 128."

Evidently the Town Clerk had known the bride before her first marriage. Joseph Hoyle at the time of this marriage was 43 years old. He was 58 when his last child was born two years after he retired from the Hoyle Tavern and two years before he died insolvent.

## JOHN HOYLE'S WILL

John Hoyle's death was recorded in the Register of King's Church, now St. John's Church, North Main Street, in Providence. The record, transcribed in Book 5, page 164 of the Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, City Registrar's office, Providence, reads: "John Hoyle buried February 11, 1766."

In his will, "John Hoyle of Cranston in the County of Providence" left all lands and buildings in Cranston to his wife, Hannah.

His son, James Hoyle, father of Joseph, received all lands in Cranston after decease of "his mother in law, Hannah Hoyle, deceased." The will continues with the injunction that James "is to assist his mother in her business, her paying him for it."

The "toomb yard at the North corner of my land fenced in with a prim hedge" is excepted, the document continuing "and my will is that the aforesaid burying place shall be keepst for a borying place for my three children namely, John Hoyle, James Hoyle, Elisabeth Mounting formerly Elisabeth Short all to have the privilege and liberty to bury their dead if need require and my son Richard's children the same privilege and so to their posterity hereafter."

He left 15 pounds to "the town of Cranston treasury" to maintain the graveyard.

To his son John was left "the East end of my house in Providence where he now lives, that is to say wright up and down from the yard to the top of the chimne between the two ends of said house and the land under the said end of said house."

The West end of the house was left to his grandson Richard Hoyle, with "1-2 the barn."

His silver mounted "sword and cain" was left to his son James "and my string of gold beeds and locket to my

daughter Elisabeth and all my wearing apparel to be divided between my two sons John and James Hoyle."

Following the disposal of his clothing came this clause:

"And further my will is that children should be loving each other and to their mother and she the same to them and I would pray that they would think that their poor Mother and Father had no Body to give any thing to them and that I have labored hard to get a few pence for them and hope God will bless them with the same."

The inventory, showing 2887 pounds 10 shillings old tenor, was made by Richard Waterman, Thomas Westcott, Alexander Frazier.

In Book W-5, Page 411, Providence Probate Records.

The inscriptions on the Hoyle gravestones were printed in *The Rhode Island Historical Society Collections*, vol. XXV, p. 112 and an illustration of the coat of arms in vol. XXI, p. 73.





## FORM OF LEGACY

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*"I give and bequeath to the Rhode Island  
Historical Society the sum of .....  
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